

**To:** Smidinger, Betsy[Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Murray, Bill[Murray.Bill@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Mutter, Andrew[mutter.andrew@epa.gov]; Stavnes, Sandra[Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tue 9/26/2017 9:00:39 PM  
**Subject:** RE: IG report

Hi, Betsy and Bill:

The Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Superfund site is currently designated as “insufficient information to determine whether Human Exposures are Under Control.” It is an 86 square mile site that has seen significant cleanup, but not all areas have yet been fully assessed. Over the years, EPA has prioritized the areas that present the greatest environmental and human health risk for investigation and cleanup. This includes the Streamside Tailings OU, Butte Mine Flooding/Berkeley Pit OU, Warm Springs Ponds OUs, Rocker OU, and **Butte Priority Soils OU**. The Westside Soils OU is a lower priority because it covers the outlying areas that are less populated, have fewer surface water and environmental impacts, and where less waste is located. EPA is currently focused on getting a consent decree with potentially responsible parties for the Butte Priority Soils OU which covers the densely populated areas where most of the waste is located.

Human health and the environment is protected for much of the site where significant cleanup has occurred.

**From:** Smidinger, Betsy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: IG report

Bill and Joe – I had a message from Kell to call him...I’m assuming about this email. His voicemail is full. In the meantime, I need your help in drafting a response to the language in the IG report.

Page 6: Region 8 stated in its survey response that it had site work it could not start due to lack of FTEs at the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area NPL site in Butte, Montana. Specifically, work is currently delayed at the West Side Soils Operable Unit (OU13), which includes the mining-impacted areas in and around the city. For the site, potential health threats include direct contact

with and ingestion of contaminated soil, surface water and groundwater; and inhaling contaminated soil. Contaminants of concern include arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead and zinc. The EPA reports that it has insufficient data to determine whether human exposure is under control, and the site is not ready for anticipated use. Region 8 also added that other sites could be advancing more quickly through the NPL process if they had additional regional project manager FTEs to assist in the work.

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/\\_epaoig\\_20170919-17-p-0397.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/_epaoig_20170919-17-p-0397.pdf)

**From:** Kelly, Albert

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017 12:43 PM

**To:** Smidinger, Betsy <[Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov](mailto:Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov)>; Vranka, Joe <[vranka.joe@epa.gov](mailto:vranka.joe@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** IG report

Sen Daines office called and wanted a response today to the items in the Montana paper that discussed the 'misallocation of personnel by EPA which negatively affected the Montana sites' and the comment that 'EPA cannot say if the health of the citizens in Butte are at risk'. Can we talk about this? I have not seen the papers

Albert Kelly

Senior Advisor to the Administrator

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

202 306 8830